DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY: BFT Bel DATE: 2/12/80
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78 SEOUL 1813

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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-12 /091 W
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P R 0608322 MAR 78
FM AMEMBASY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9694
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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E.O. 11652: N A
TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 4-6 1978
REF: SEOUL 1747 (DTG 0307342 MARCH 78)
1. KOREAGATE. REPS CAPUTO AND FENWICKS' REMARKS ("ODIOUS, UGLY") ON CONTENT OF PTS TESTIMONY CARRIED BY WEEKEND PRESS. JAWORSKI MEETING WITH SEC VANCE REPORTED AS ANOTHER UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN TESTIMONY OF FORMER AMB. KIM TONG-CHO. PRESS EXCERPT NEWSWEEK'S INTERVIEW WITH AMB. KIM AND HIS COMMENT ("RIDICULOUS") ON ALLEGATION HE PASSED MONEY TO CONGRESSMEN. NYTIMES ITEM THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FIND PTS "EVASIVE" ON SOME POINTS CARRIED AS STRAIGHT NEWS.
2. TEAM SPIRIT. FRONT-PAGE AND FEATURE TERATMENT CONTINUES WITH ARRIVAL OF LANCE MISSLE CREW. PRESS NOTES LANCE CAN CARRY NUCLEAR WARHEAD. DEPSECDEF DUNCAN'S OBSERVATION OF EXERCISE AND TALKS WITH US ROKG OFFICIALS GIVEN MEDIUM FRONT-PAGE TERATMENT. ADM MOORER'S INTERVIEW ABOARD
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PLANE TO ROK GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE WITH INSIDE HEADLINES "WILL IMMEDIATELY CRUSH NK PROVOCATION"; "SURPRISE ATTACK AGAINST SEOUL WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL"; "ROK DEFENSE INTEGRAL WITH US SECURITY".
3. VANCE TESTIMONY. PRESS CARRY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WITH NO COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY FOR COMPENSATORY PACKAGE. REPORTS NOTE SECRETARY "SIDESTEPPED DIRECT RESPONSE" TO SEN MCGOVERN'S QUESTION ON WHETHER WITHDRAWAL WOULD GO FORWARD EVEN IF CONGRESS REJECTED COMPENSATORY BILL. ALSO CARRY REP ZABLOCKI COMMENT "I DOUBT SUCH LEGISLATION CAN GO THROUGH THIS YEAR".
4. UNDERSEC HABIB. MARCH 6 PAPERS HAVE NYTIMES REPORT THAT HABIB WILL RESIGN WITHIN THE WEEK FOR HEALTH REASONS AND WILL BE REPLACED BY AMB. NEWSOME. MOFA ASST. MIN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS YI MUN-YONG IS QUOTED BY CHOONGANG ILBO. "THERE IS NO ONE IN STATE DEPARTMENT WHO KNOWS KOREA BETTER THAN HABIB", AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU CHIEF PARK SANG-YONG "SINCE

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HE KNEW KOREA TOO WELL, THERE WERE DIFFICULT TIMES AS WELL AS EASY TIMES WHEN WORKING WITH HIM". GENERAL MOFA FEELING IS REPORTED AS ONE OF "REGRET" UPON LEARNING OF HABIB'S DEPARTURE.

5. VANCE PARK TONG-JIN MEETING. PRESS SPECULATE THAT MEETING WILL DEAL WITH ARMS AND TRANSFER AND "OTHER PENDING PROBLEMS"; ASSUME THAT "SECRETARY WILL MAKE CLEAR AMB. KIM TONG-CHO'S IMMUNITY FROM TESTIMONY WILL NOT BE WAIVED".

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